

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, is respectfully requested.

The application is directed to a water soluble package containing a detergent composition. The packaging and transport of water soluble packages containing fluid substances subjects the formed packages to considerable impact forces. A particular problem is that when a number of such packages are loose packed in a larger container which is then transported, the impact forces suffered by the packages within the container can be severe. The difficulty is that in such a situation it only takes one package in the larger container to break for the whole product to be ruined as far as the consumer is concerned because the fluid contents of the broken package may leak over any unbroken packages. Consumer confidence in a product is likely to be badly damaged by such an occurrence. The problem of minimising breakage to an acceptable level is particularly acute in the area of laundry detergents and other domestic consumer products and has not been solved until now. See page 2, line 24 - page 3, line 4 of the specification.

Applicants have surprisingly discovered that the above mentioned problems and disadvantages of known water soluble packages are substantially addressed by the packages according to the invention. In particular, the invention yields water soluble packages which are sufficiently robust to withstand (to a commercially acceptable level) the rigours of packaging and transport even when the fluid substance inside the package is a domestic consumer product such as a laundry detergent. The combination of thermoforming the packages of the invention and forming the packages into a dome shape confers surprising advantages on the packages of the invention. See page 3, line 26 - page 4, line 3 of the specification.

Applicants confirm the election of claims 1 - 10. Claims 11 - 14 were canceled without prejudice towards further presentation in a continuing application.

Claims 1 - 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ciallella et al. (U.S. Patent 4,806,261) in view of Chan (U.S. Patent 5,996,845).

It is not seen how one of ordinary skilled in the art would have been led to combine Ciallella with Chan since employing the package of Chan in Ciallella's invention would destroy the purposes of both Chan and Ciallella:

- Ciallella needs water soluble package, whereas Chan teaches water insoluble packages;
- Ciallella teaches granular detergent within the package, whereas Chan teaches liquid composition;
- Chan discloses a liquid dispensing package which is not entirely sealed around the perimeter of the package but, rather, contains an opening, for squeezing the liquid contents out of the package; whereas Ciallella's package is sealed.

Even more importantly, even if Chan and Ciallella were combined, it is not seen how one of ordinary skill in the art would have arrived at the dome shaped reservoir recited by applicants' claims. Ciallella discloses a water soluble package comprising a particulate detergent composition. Ciallella does not disclose either thermoforming the package or the dome shape as recited by applicants' claims. Chan teaches a cup shape for the reservoir. See the figures in the Chan patent and column 5, lines 7 - 8. Also see Figure 19 of Chan, which teaches the thermoforming process and clearly indicates the cup shape for the reservoir portion. Figure 4 of Chan differs from applicants' claims in that it does not have a basewall, but instead discloses a dual reservoir.

Applicants' specification contains ample evidence of the criticality of the dome shape, combined with thermoforming process. This combination of thermoforming with dome shape is not taught by the Ciallella/Chan references, either alone or combined. See applicants' examples showing impact resistance and impact survival in the

package were greatly improved when the critical selection of a dome shape in combination with thermoforming was made by applicants, (pages 11 - 14 of the specification).

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the rejection over Ciallella in view of Chan be reconsidered and withdrawn and the application be allowed to issue.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's acknowledgement of the consideration of documents submitted with:

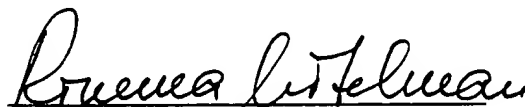
- Information Disclosure Statement mailed on May 30, 2000;
- Supplemental Disclosure Statement mailed on June 8, 2000;
- Second Supplemental Disclosure Statement submitted on September 12, 2000.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 11 - 14 have been cancelled.